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**GROWTH OF SCANDINAVIAN LAW. By Lester Bernhardt Orfield.
Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1953.**

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GROWTH OF SCANDINAVIAN LAW. By Lester Bernhardt Orfield. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1953. Pp. 363. \$8.50.

Professor Orfield's book contains descriptive presentations of all areas of Scandinavian law. Following a short introduction pointing out some of the main characteristics of Scandinavian legal developments each of the areas under discussion, *i.e.*, Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, are introduced by an informative section on international relations designed to show "how these countries emerged into their present position." An outline of their constitutional developments follows, including, among others, the areas of the judiciary, of local government, etc. The most interesting part deals with Scandinavian private law. As the author points out in his Introduction, lawyers traditionally divide the "world's legal systems into two major types: common law based on judicial decisions, and codes." To the author, this statement does not appear correct since such classification overlooks "the fact that there may be a third possible type, namely, customary law, based on the customs, usages and practices of the community rather than of the courts of the community." This tempting suggestion deserves to be followed up in a study comparing, analytically, different areas of Scandinavian law with each other, and, in addition, with continental law and common law as well.

Among the Scandinavian legal achievements, the best known is, undoubtedly, their modern legislation in family law, especially regarding divorce and illegitimate children. According to the general outline of the book, the discussion remains brief. Nevertheless, a short summary of the main features of the family law seems desirable. The recent Swedish Parents' Code (1949) and the Norwegian act respecting illegitimate children (1949) also deserve mention. Labor law is strongly influenced by socialist doctrines and is primarily concerned with social security. Criminal law follows modern trends as does civil procedure in its recent enactments. A feature of special interest is the cooperation between Scandinavian countries in preparing uniform Scandinavian law, and apparently similar to our uniform state law movement. This cooperation is also conducted on the international level, by treaties (*e.g.*, the 1931 treaty on conflict law concerning marriage, adoption and guardianship).

The book is an indispensable introduction to Scandinavian law. It is expertly written, well balanced and covers all aspects of Scandinavian law. If an addict of comparative law feels that the comparative and analytical aspect is less prominent than he would expect, then he better recognizes that the book is intended to be a descriptive study in foreign law with emphasis on its historical background. This aim is fully achieved: a wealth of information is worked into the book putting this rather neglected area of foreign law within the reach of everyone.

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